



In 1977, The **Dirty Dozen Social and Pleasure Club** in New Orleans began showcasing a traditional Crescent City brass band. It was a joining of two proud, but antiquated, traditions at the time: social and pleasure clubs dated back over a century to a time when black southerners could rarely afford life insurance, and the clubs would provide proper funeral arrangements. Brass bands, early predecessors of jazz as we know it, would often follow the funeral procession playing somber dirges, then once the family of the deceased was out of earshot, burst into jubilant dance tunes as casual onlookers danced in the streets. By the late '70s, few of either existed. The Dirty Dozen Social and Pleasure Club decided to assemble this group as a house band, and over the course of these early gigs, the seven-member ensemble adopted the venue's name: **The Dirty Dozen Brass Band**.

Thirty-five years later, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band is a world famous music machine, whose name is synonymous with genre-bending romps and high-octane performances. They have revitalized the brass band in New Orleans and around the world, progressing from local parties, clubs, baseball games and festivals in their early years to touring nearly constantly in the U.S. and in over 30 other countries on five continents. The Dirty Dozen have been featured guests on albums by artists including **David Bowie, Elvis Costello, Dr. John, Buckwheat Zydeco, Dave Matthews Band, Modest Mouse, Widespread Panic, and the Black Crowes**.

- ✦ **2013 DownBeat Critics Poll**, The Dirty Dozen's **Roger Lewis** ranked among the Best Baritone Saxophone players
- ✦ **2013** Nominated for **FOUR Best of the Beat Awards** by **OffBeat** magazine including **Best Brass Band Album** for *Twenty Dozen* as well as nominations for members **Roger Lewis, Kirk Joseph** and **Terrence Higgins** in their respective instrument categories
- ✦ Latest album **TWENTY DOZEN** (May 1, 2012) celebrates their 35th Anniversary
- ✦ **Gregory Davis** (trumpet) and **Roger Lewis** (saxophone) are featured on **2012 GRAMMY Winning Best World Music Album Tinariwen's, Tassili**.
- ✦ TV performance of "From the Corner to the Block" with **Galactic** and **Juvenile** on **HBO's Treme** featured on the soundtrack, *Treme, Season 2: Music from the Original Series*
- ✦ Featured in NFL Season Kickoff festivities in New Orleans. The Dirty Dozen joined **Trombone Shorty** and **Dave Matthews Band** during the NFL Opening Kickoff 2010 pre-game concert, broadcast live on NBC. The Dozen, Trombone Shorty and **Kermit Ruffins** collaborated with DMB on the **Talking Heads'** classic "Burning Down the House" while the **Mardi Gras Indians** danced on stage.
- ✦ The Dirty Dozen's "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" was featured in Episode 8 of **HBO's Treme**
- ✦ **2009 Best of the Beat Nominee** for Best Brass Band, presented by **Offbeat** magazine, an award they have won a number of times in the past. The Dirty Dozen Brass Band's **Kirk Joseph** was nominated for Best Tuba/Sousaphonist in the 2011 Awards and is nominated again for the 2012 Awards.
- ✦ Honored with **Music Heritage Award** at the **2009 Big Easy Music Awards**

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TWENTY DOZEN

Exactly thirty-five years ago born in the New Orleans neighborhood of Treme, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band revolutionized the New Orleans brass band by incorporating funk and bebop into the traditional style. Anchored by original members Roger Lewis, Kevin Harris, Gregory Davis, Efreem Towns and Kirk Joseph, the band has signed with Savoy Jazz who will help celebrate their auspicious anniversary with the release of **TWENTY DOZEN** – an all new eleven track album that will be released on May 1st. Produced by Scott Billington at The Music Shed in New Orleans, the album showcases The Dirty Dozen Brass Band's quintessential sound mixed with a heady Caribbean flavor.

TWENTY DOZEN contains the first new original music from the band since 1999 and is their first release in over five years. Among the tracks included is a cover of Rihanna's global #1 smash, "Don't Stop The Music."



The Dirty Dozen Brass Band broke through the boundaries of the traditional brass band to evolve into a highly lauded world-renowned musical force. With several incarnations throughout the years, the band now consists of Gregory Davis (trumpet, flugelhorn), Roger Lewis (baritone, soprano sax), Kevin Harris (tenor saxophone), Efreem Towns (trumpet, flugelhorn), Kirk Joseph (sousaphone), Terence Higgins (drums) and Kyle Roussel (keyboard). Former member Jake Eckert (guitar) is featured throughout **TWENTY DOZEN**.

Says Roger Lewis: "It's a big old musical gumbo, and that probably made the difference, separating us from other brass bands out of New Orleans. It put a different twist on the music. We were not trying to change anything, we were just playing the music we wanted to play and not stay in one particular bag."



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PRESS

“They hurl styles together with cavalier optimism, play with relentless bravura, and have zero patience for navel-gazing of any sort.”

- ***The Guardian, London***

“Whether you experience the Dozen on stage or on the street, they are guys anyone would feel lucky to meet in this lifetime. The music that comes through as they perform, resonates with feelings of familiarity, uniqueness, humor and daring – all at once, all the time.”

- ***John Bell of Widespread Panic***

“Brass-band music used to be a singular strain of New Orleans's cultural heritage. It was defined by its free-wheeling polyphony, its repertory of dirges and stomps and its appearance primarily at parades and funerals. The Dirty Dozen Brass Band has changed everything but the instrumentation to reinvent a modern omnivorous brass-band music that embraces be-bop, funk, and rhythm-and-blues. The arrangements are crisply focused and the music sounds at home in a club as well as on the march. Yet for all the changes, the Dirty Dozen has retained an essential part of the tradition - their performance still conveys a sense of communal jubilation.”

- ***Jon Pareles, New York Times***

“Dirty Dozen Brass Band, celebrating 35 years with the release of their new *Twenty Dozen* album, slathered their brass band/funk/jazz stylings all over the Acura Stage. The nine-piece group sounded up-to-the-minute as it blared long sax-led jams punctuated with fierce trumpet jabs and filthy bottom-end passages from tuba and trombone. *Festival*, from the new album, incorporated Caribbean rhythms that spawned rampant rhumba-ing in the crowd...and an exuberant second-line medley extracted pure New Orleans joy from the masses.”

- ***USA Today, 5/14/2012***

“Since forming, they revolutionized the brass band idiom paving the way for a brass band revival in New Orleans... The Dirty Dozen Brass Band has become an institution that represents New Orleans all across the world. Their songs have become standards.”

- ***Off Beat, 4/1/2013***

“Throughout these new pieces, the ensemble horn work...is, as it has always been, stunning. The solos, particularly by Lewis and Harris, sizzle and pop and drive these tunes with tremendous intensity.”

- ***Living Blues, August 2012 Issue***

“Such versatility and the ability to take the music of Africa and the African diaspora and play it as if it were their own heritage is what separates the Dirty Dozen from other brass and funk bands. ...After 35 wonderful years, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band's records are as fun as ever. At this point in its career, the Dirty Dozen has perfected playing along the fine line of being tight enough to keep dancers on their toes, but loose enough to sound like a New Orleans band enjoying itself.”

- ***Gambit, 5/22/2012***

“For more than two decades, their ability to be funky - to play complex syncopated rhythms with a carefree flair that automatically makes listeners want to get up and dance – has never been in doubt. Although the Dirty Dozen uses traditional instrumentation, it doesn't sound traditional. By incorporating elements of modern jazz, pop, R&B and other genres into its style, the band has kept fresh what could easily have become a stodgy, time-bound formula. ...the Dirty Dozen Brass Band continues to be a national treasure: steeped in both the past and the present, impossible to categorize, and mighty funky.”

- ***New York Times***

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DISCOGRAPHY

Twenty Dozen (May 1, 2012)
35th Anniversary Celebration CD

My Feet Can't Fail Me Now (2010)
25th Anniversary Re-master

What's Going On (2006)

This Is The Dirty Dozen Brass Band Collection (2005)

Funeral For A Friend (2004)

Night Of Joy (2004)
with Widespread Panic

We Got Robbed: Live In New Orleans (2004)

Medicated Magic (2002)

Down & Dirty (2002)

Another Joyous Occasion (2000)
with Widespread Panic

Buck Jump (1999)

This Is Jazz 30 (1997)

Ears To The Wall (1996)

Jelly (1993)

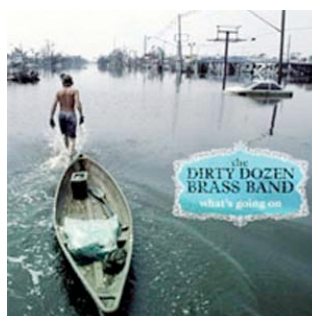
Open Up: Watcha Gonna Do (1992)

New Orleans Album (1990)

Voodoo (1990)

Live: Mardi Gras In Montreux (1990)

My Feet Can't Fail Me Now (1984)



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